

REMARKS

Claims 8-13 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-7 and 14-21 are canceled. Group II is elected without traverse, and Group D is elected with traverse. Claim 8 is a generic claim to all species. Claims 8, 9 and 13 are directed to the elected Species of Figure 4. Upon allowance of the generic claim, Applicants request rejoinder of all of the claims, as being proper.

As to the Election of Species, Applicants submit that Species A is also associated with Figure 4. Applicants thus request that Species A and D be combined and that claim 10 also be examined. In the specification at page 6, it is clearly described that the pressure control valves are associated with reference numeral 28a and 28b. Figure 4 shows this feature. Thus, the examination of Species D, Figure 4, would encompass the use of control valves. It would not be any burden on the Examiner to search and examine the control valves of Figure 3, when performing a search and conducting an examination of Figure 4. Applicants request examination of Species A and D, together, for the above reasons. Otherwise, there is a heavy burden on Applicants that would outweigh any perceived burden on the Examiner, with regard to this examination of claim 10.

Additionally, Applicants submit by examining a set of valves, as recited in claim 13, one would have to search for pressure relief valves, pressure regulating valves, control valves and a host of other types of valves. This would not pose any burden on the Examiner. It would appear that such an examination would naturally occur. Thus, in sum, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all of the claims 8-13 is sufficiently related that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group would encompass a search of the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, Applicants submit that the search and examination of claims 8-13 could be made without serious burden.

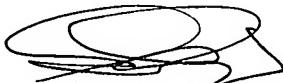
Serial No.: 10/079,489

--4--

CONCLUSION

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 23-1951.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrew M. Calderon
Registration No. 38,093

McGuireWoods, LLP
Suite 1800
1750 Tysons Blvd.
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 712-5426